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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 3, 2006

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Honorable Deborah Pryce
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Domestic and
International Monetary Policy
Committee on Financial Services
2129 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Pryce:

We write today to request a hearing in the Financial Services Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy regarding Holocaust Era Assets in the United States.

As you are aware, in the 105th Congress our Committee undertook a series of hearings on Holocaust restitution, which resulted in the Holocaust Assets Commission Act (P.L. 105-186, 22 USC 1621). The purpose of the bill was to create a Presidential Advisory Commission to develop a historical record of the collection and dispossession of Holocaust assets that came into the possession or control of the Federal government, private individuals/entities, and non-Federal government entities in the United States.

The Commission finished its work five years ago and submitted its report to the President on December 15, 2000. One of the important issues that was raised was the fate of artwork looted during the Holocaust. Since the publication of the report, our Committee has not returned to this issue to review the findings of the Commission or monitor the efforts undertaken domestically and abroad to ensure restitution. In the interim, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (the "Claims Conference") has been working with the American Association of Museums on a voluntary initiative to provide information regarding the provenance of any Holocaust-era art in their collections as well as with foreign governments regarding making information available to claimants and in developing fair and just claims processes.

Additionally, the Claims Conference has undertaken an extensive review of Nazi archives for records related to artwork taken from Jewish families during World War II, for the purpose of creating an electronic database that would be available to museums and private art dealers to determine whether pieces in their collection may be of questionable provenance.

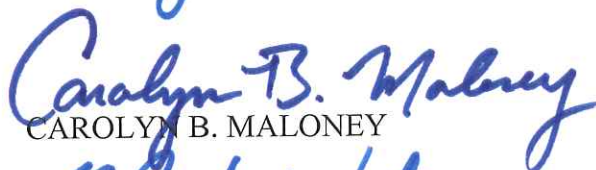
We believe that given the Committee's role in creating the Holocaust Assets Commission, it would be appropriate at this time for us to review the status of the efforts being undertaken by the Claims Conference, the American Association of Museums and individual museums and private art dealers. This would be a strong indication of our continuing commitment to the issue of restitution.

We hope that you will agree to schedule such a hearing this spring and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

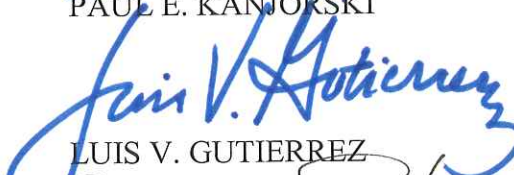

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STEVE ISRAEL

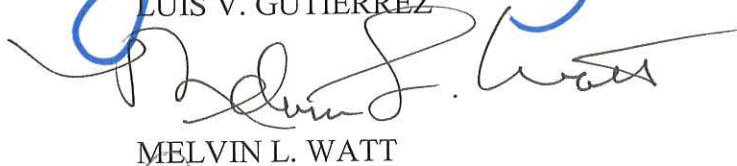

CAROLYN B. MALONEY


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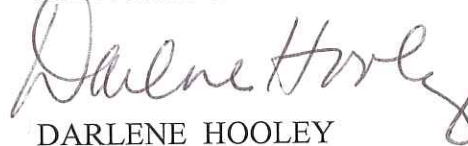

MAXINE WATERS

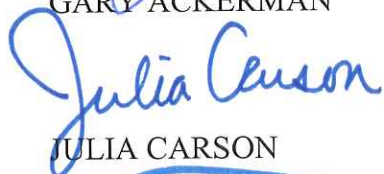

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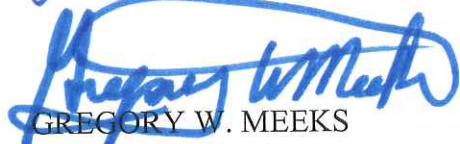

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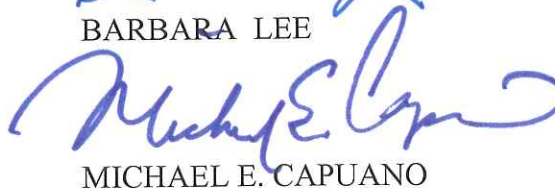

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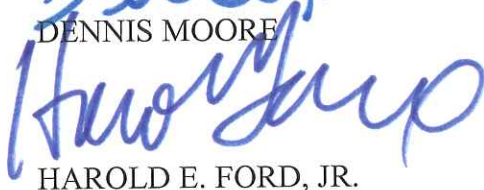

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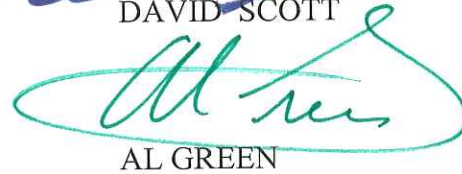

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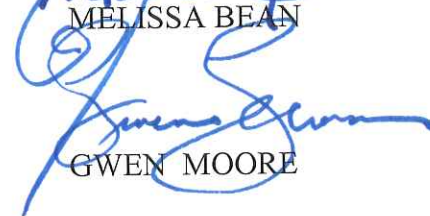

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